IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend as follows:

[0007] Commonly-assigned U.S. Patent ~~Application~~ No. 6,257,140 ~~09/472,337~~, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein, describes gapless tubular printing blankets produced continuously and cut to length as desired. The sleeve and print layer are "continuously" formed in that the sleeve forming station continues to form an additional portion of the sleeve while the print layer forming station applies the print layer to the previously formed portion of the sleeve. Wound tapes or cross-head extruders are used to apply various layers.

[0008] Commonly-assigned U.S. Patent No. ~~09/685,035~~ 6,538,970 discloses a machine for winding a sleeve, and is also incorporated by reference herein.

[0023] The present device preferably includes a rotation device for rotating the base, and the base and rotation device may be similar to the base devices used to form blankets in incorporated-by-reference U.S. ~~Application~~ Patent Nos. ~~09/472,337, 09/685,035~~ 6,257,140 and 6,538,970 and U.S. Application Serial No. 09/716,696. These devices as a plurality of slats which push the sleeve so as permit a continuous manufacture.

[0054] A sleeve forming station 20 ~~forming~~ forms a flexible sleeve 18. The sleeve forming station 20 includes a rotation and translation device or base 22, for example one having a series of axially-translating and rotating slats, as described in the incorporated-by-reference U.S. Patent Application No. 09/716,696, for example.

[0059] Fig. 4 shows an alternate embodiment of sleeve-forming station 20. A release tape 124, with for example a TEFLON outer coating slides over the outer surface of rotating and translation device 22. On top of the application layer 125 formed by the TEFLON tape is deposited a polymer by a liquid applicator 26, the polymer preferably being urethane. The polymer then cures, for example using UV light, while still on application layer 125. The cured polymer thus forms tubular sleeve 18. The release tape ~~22~~ 124 can be pulled out the front end of the sleeve forming station 20, as shown by arrow 126.

[0060] An alternate to the tape ~~22~~ 124 for application layer 125 is a release agent, for example dried TEFLON spray, for example .0001" in thickness. This layer then can remain as part of sleeve 18, or can remain part of rotating and translating device 22. Application layer 125 also could be a permanent coating on the rotating and translating device 22, such as TEFLON-impregnated nickel.

[0065] Over the compressible layer 16 ~~between~~ after grinding device may deposited, for example by a liquid applicator device, a reinforcing layer 14 (Fig. 5). The durometer of the reinforcing layer, which also may be urethane, preferably is greater than 70 shore A, and preferably about 70 shore D, similar to that of the sleeve 18.